

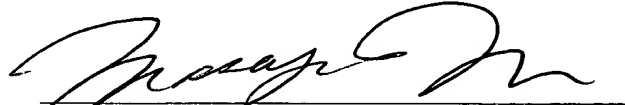
Application No. 09/926,296
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2003

patenting rejection. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn. Thus,
Claims 13-22 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that this
application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', is written over a horizontal line.

Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 47,301

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

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